

HSMHA'S UNIFYING PRINCIPLES

The activities of the Health Services and Mental Health Administration, through the 14 closely related programs that make up HSMHA, are governed by two unifying principles.

The first is that our activities must complement and support those of the remainder of the national health partnership, including both the private sector and the regional, State, and local governmental bodies involved. Because health care is essentially an individual and community matter, the Federal health care delivery agency must perform so as to encourage effective service at the point of delivery in the community. What happens in the community is the measure of our success or failure.

The second principle arises from the fact that the challenges facing the health care system cannot be fragmented or compartmentalized. Therefore, the many programs of our Federal health care delivery agency must be viewed as one function. The activities of our 14 components all contribute to, and are inseparable from, the HSMHA mission which is to improve the organization and delivery of health services for the American people.

In fact, as this agency matures in its third year of existence, we find that to be truly effective the combined resources of several of our programs must be focused simultaneously upon any given health delivery problem. This necessity for unified action occurs, not through overlap or duplication of responsibility, but because the real problems of health care that we seek to solve require the variety of instruments that HSMHA as an integral agency possesses.

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Administrator
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Cover—Scene is the Barrio Free Clinic, one of 16 in the Los Angeles area. National survey of free clinics, another new way to provide health care, begins on page 775.



HSMHA HEALTH Reports

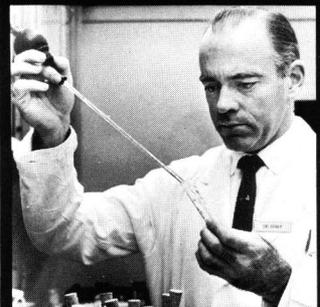
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